25 QUESTIONS ABOUT CRIMEA

AUTHENTIC
CONCISE
FACTUAL

2022

CONTENTS



INTRODUCTORY NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Today, Crimea has become, perhaps, one of the most famous regions of the world. It's hard to find a person who hasn't heard of him. At the same time, the peninsula in the Black Sea turned out to be a kind of terra incognita for many foreign citizens. Information about the events taking place here is hardly accessible to most of the inhabitants of the planet for one reason — a full-scale information war is being waged against Crimea by the collective West. The whole range of «weapons» is used in this war: from half-truths, manipulations and concealment of important facts to outright lies and deception.

The 25 Questions about Crimea is important for all those who want to live in a world of truth. After all, the truth can help building the real cooperation and equal relations between the people of the world.

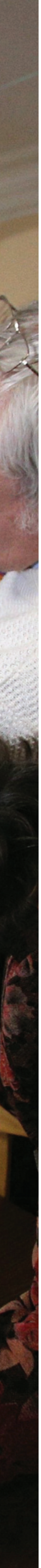
The book is published in Russian and translated into 19 foreign languages (Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Spanish, and Turkish).



SECTION I

25 QUESTIONS ABOUT CRIMEA





1 WHAT HAPPENED IN CRIMEA IN 2014?

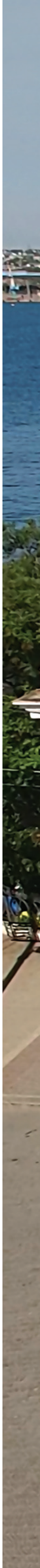
In 2014, as a result of a free expression of the will of the people of Crimea, the peninsula seceded from Ukraine, declared its independence, and reunited with Russia, of which it had been part until 1954. The reason for this was the nationalist coup d'etat in Kiev, during which, despite guarantees from Germany, France, and Poland, the then Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, was overthrown. Right-wing nationalist forces seized power in the country. Their ranks were dominated by extremist organizations that openly demanded ethnic cleansing of the Russian-speaking and Russian-cultural population, the vast majority of the peninsula's residents.

Crimeans, wanting to avoid a civil war (such as the one that later erupted in the Donbass), with the participation of international observers, held an all-Crimean referendum on March 16, 2014, at which they chose between joining Russia and retaining Crimea as part of Ukraine. 96.77% of those who took part in the voting voted for the entry of the Republic of Crimea into Russia with a turnout of 83.1% of

the total number of voters, and in Sevastopol — 95.6% with a turnout of 89.5%.

On March 18, an agreement was signed in Moscow on the entry of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol into the Russian Federation.

Thus, the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol became subjects of Russia as a result of democratic procedures and in accordance with the rules of international law.




1846





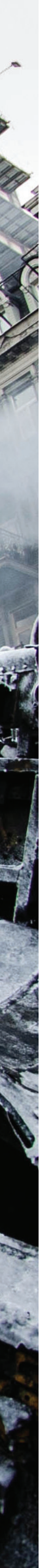
2

DID CRIMEA HAVE THE RIGHT TO SECEDE FROM UKRAINE?

The declaration of independence of the Republic of Crimea was a legal form of its people's exercise of the right to self-determination, which is enshrined in Article 1 of the UN Charter, Article 1 of the 1966 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 1 of the 1966 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, recognized by the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter which was repeatedly confirmed by UN General Assembly resolutions and decisions of the UN International Court of Justice.

The implementation of this right took place against the background of the coup d'état in Kiev and the forcible removal of the legitimate President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych. Under these conditions, the actions of the Crimean authorities to hold a referendum were of a strictly legal nature. Based on the convincing result of the referendum (96.77% of those who voted supported the reunification of Crimea with Russia with a turnout of 83.1%), an independent sovereign Republic of Crimea was proclaimed on March 17, 2014, and on March 18, a decision was made and formalized on the reunification of the already independent Crimea with Russia.





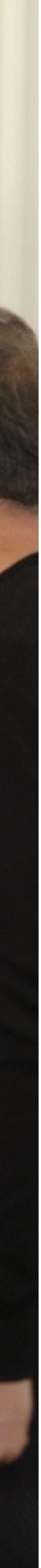
3

WHY DID THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION COMPLIED WITH THE REQUEST OF CRIMEA FOR ACCESSION?

First of all, Russia took into account that the legal president of Ukraine was forcibly overthrown in Kiev, who was considered by the Crimeans as a guarantor of the rights of national minorities, including the Russian-speaking population. In addition, Crimea that declared its independence was threatened by war and ethnic cleansing, as nationalists and neo-Nazis seized power in Kiev in a coup d'état. The country's civilian population, primarily Russian-speaking, began to be massacred with violence, mass arrests, pogroms, and murders. As an example, on February 20, 2014 (about a month before Crimea's reunification with Russia), in the city of Korsun-Shevchenkovskyi (Cherkasy Region of Ukraine) nationalists and Right Sector gunmen attacked Crimean residents, supporters of the «Anti-Maidan», who were returning home from Kiev by bus. Radicals burned the buses and massacred unarmed people, sparing neither women nor the elderly. Several people were shot dead and many went missing.

Under these circumstances, the Russian Federation could not but respond to the threat of mass extermination by Ukrainian nationalists of the Russian and Russian-speaking population of Crimea, as well as to the free expression of the will of the Crimean people. At the same time, Russia undoubtedly proceeded from the full legitimacy of the democratic procedures carried out by the Crimean parliament and government for Crimea's secession from Ukraine and its request to become part of the Russian Federation.





4

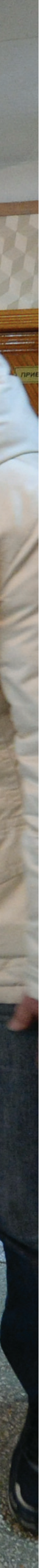
WHY ISN'T THE REUNIFICATION OF CRIMEA WITH RUSSIA CONSIDERED AS A RUSSIAN OCCUPATION?

In accordance with the Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on the presence of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine dated April 21, 2010, during the Crimean referendum in 2014, Russian servicemen were legally in Crimea.

At the same time, numerous international observers noted that the servicemen did not interfere in the referendum process.

It is important to emphasize that Russia did not reunite with part of Ukraine's territory, but with independent Crimea. On March 17, 2014, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, based on the direct expression of will of the people of Crimea during the referendum held on March 16, decided to declare Crimea an independent sovereign state — the Republic of Crimea, in which Sevastopol is a city with a special status. On March 18, the Republic of Crimea concluded an international treaty with Russia on becoming part of it. The Federal Constitutional Law of the Russian Federation on the Accession of Crimea and Sevastopol to Russia was signed by the President of Russia on March 21, 2014.





5

WERE ANY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS PRESENT AT REFERENDUM IN CRIMEA 2014?

The Crimean referendum on March 16, 2014 was held in compliance with all necessary procedures. It met all the requirements of a democratic state and complied with the rules of international law. A large number of foreign observers followed the vote. In general, 130 specialists from 23 countries of the world worked at the referendum on March 16. Among them were representatives of the USA, Israel, China, Mongolia and the countries of the European Union (Germany, France, Italy, Greece, and Spain) and a number of others. Members of parliaments from Western and Eastern European states, as well as the European Parliament, also participated as observers.

It is especially noteworthy to underscore that the invitation to observers was open, and any state, international or non-profit organization could unimpededly send its representatives to observe the expression of the will of the Crimean people.

Foreign observers noted the high level of preparation of the referendum, its compliance with the norms of democratic legislation and the legitimacy of the vote. They also stated that there was a strong distortion of information about the events in Crimea in the American and European media and pointed out the need to respect the choice of Crimeans. On March 20, 2014, the Russian Human Rights Council concluded that the referendum in Crimea was held without violating democratic procedures, with the participation of international observers and without pressure on Crimeans.

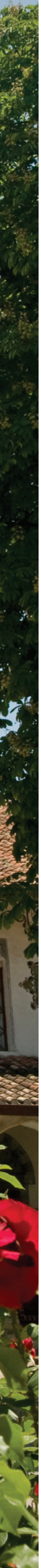




6 WHAT IS THE ETHNIC MAKEUP OF THE CRIMEAN POPULATION?

Historically Crimea is a multinational region. The population of Crimea is about 2.4 million people from 175 national communities, 65.3% of which are Russians, 15.1% Ukrainians, and 10.2% Crimean Tatars. In addition, there are Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Belarusians, Greeks, Jews, Italians, Koreans, Moldavians, Germans, Uzbeks, Karaites, Krymchaks and others living in Crimea. Many of these communities have formed their own cultural autonomies, which further contribute to the preservation and development of their culture, language and traditions. The Crimean constitution, adopted after Crimea's reunification with Russia, first enshrined Russian, Ukrainian, and Crimean Tatar as state languages. Crimea is steeped in the culture of its multinational people. The ethnic diversity of the Crimeans is reflected in the architecture, cultural monuments, cuisine, literature and holidays.





7 WHAT IS THE SITUATION WITH THE CRIMEAN TATARS?

After the reunification of Crimea with Russia, the Western media, as if by order, began to write that Russian jurisdiction had worsened the situation of the Crimean Tatars. In fact, it was the presence of the Crimean Tatars for 23 years under the jurisdiction of Ukraine that brought this original people of Crimea to the brink of disaster. As early as 2006, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination pointed out the poor living conditions of Crimean Tatars and also emphasized the difficulties of their socio-economic integration into Ukrainian society and the difficulties in obtaining Ukrainian citizenship. As it turned out, many of them were deprived not only of access to legal guarantees of property, but also of physical access to infrastructure, including water, electricity, gas, and heating systems.

Following the results of three cycles of monitoring reports on Ukraine's implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a number of resolutions that consistently demanded that the Ukrainian authorities resolve issues of participation of Crimean Tatars in the economic, social, cultural and public spheres. At the same time, concern was expressed about the increase in cases of racism and intolerance.

It was after the transition of the Crimean Tatar community of Crimea into the legal field of Russia that two fundamental problems of this people were immediately solved. Firstly, the Crimean Tatar language is rec-

ognized as the state language on the territory of Crimea, and, secondly, the land rights of the Crimean Tatars are regulated by law. At the same time, stable participation of representatives of this nation in all branches of government has been ensured. In addition, in 2014–2019, about 400 mosques were officially registered in the Republic of Crimea, 11 new mosques were built and two old mosques were reconstructed, publications are persistently published in the Crimean Tatar language, dozens of public schools and classes operate in the Crimean Tatar language of instruction. Numerous media outlets are published in it and television and radio broadcasting is conducted.









8 WHAT SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES AND UKRAINE AGAINST CRIMEA?

After the reunification of Crimea with Russia in 2014, comprehensive sanctions were imposed on the peninsula by Western countries and Ukraine under the pretext that Crimea was allegedly occupied by Russia. At the same time, the democratic expression of the will of the Crimeans during the all-Crimean referendum was not taken into account.

The most notable actions were undertaken by the Kiev's nationalist regime. During 2014—2015, the Ukrainian authorities completely cut off water supplies to Crimea through the Severokrymsky Canal, which supplied the peninsula with 85% of the water from the international Dnieper River (flowing from Russia and Belarus to Ukraine).

The Mejlis extremist organization and Ukrainian nationalists, with Kiev's support, organized the explosions on power lines (which supplied 80% of the peninsula's electricity) as well as food and transportation blockade of Crimea. The supply of natural gas to businesses and households in Crimea was also cut off. All this had a most adverse effect on the humanitarian situation on the peninsula.

Sanctions against Crimea imposed by the West include a complete ban on export-import operations, a ban on investments in the territory of Crimea, including the purchase of real estate there, business financ-

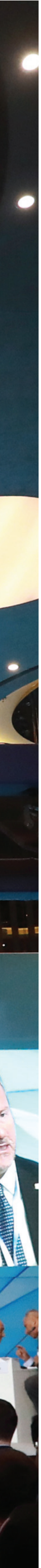
ing, and the provision of services, for example, tourism. Foreign vessels are prohibited from entering Crimean ports, and planes are prohibited from landing at Crimean airports. Moreover, Russian citizens, who are residents of Crimea, have been denied visa services by consular offices of Western states located on the territory of Russia.

Thus, in essence, the West and the Ukraine violated a number of the fundamental human rights — to life, hygiene, and nutrition, freedom of movement, freedom of thought and belief. As a result, instead of helping the «annexed» region (according to the West), the residents of Crimea were punished for expressing their will through democratic procedures in a referendum in 2014.




ЦЕРКОВНАЯ ЛАВКА


ЯЛТИНСКИЙ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЙ ФОРУМ
YALTA
INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC FORUM
20-22
апреля
April 2017
МИР
СТРАНА
ЧЕЛОВЕК
WORLD
COUNTRY
HUMAN
Новые тренды
экономического
развития
New Trends
of Economic
Development



9

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF CRIMEA?

The establishment of the International Association of Friends of Crimea was announced at the III Yalta International Economic Forum in April 2017. The initiative to establish the organization belongs to prominent public figures and civil activists from a number of foreign countries who advocate the normalization of relations with Russia and the development of economic, business, cultural and humanitarian ties with Crimea.

One of the first steps of the association was the adoption of an appeal to the parliaments and peoples of the world on the need to restore security and cooperation mechanisms, resume constructive dialogue with Russia, abandon the policy of unilateral sanctions, and respect the legitimate choice of the people of Crimea.

Currently, the national Friends of Crimea Clubs, members of the association, exist in more than 30 countries around the world. The Coordinating Council is headed by a prominent politician and public figure Ján Čarnogurský, former Prime Minister of Slovakia and Chairman of the Society of the Slovak-Russian Friendship. The Friends of Crimea actively express their position on such international platforms as the UN Human Rights Council, OSCE and others.


БАНДЕРА, ШУХЕВИЧ -
ГЕРОЇ УКРАЇНИ!

10 WHY DO THE RESIDENTS OF CRIMEA BELIEVE THAT A NAZI REGIME IS NOW ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE?

The participation of neo-Nazis and radicals in the coup d'etat in Ukraine in 2014 was the last straw that overwhelmed the patience of the Crimean society and largely determined the choice of Crimeans in favor of reunification with Russia.

Today, the whole spectrum of manifestations of neo-Nazism at the state level is recorded in Ukraine. Firstly, we are talking about the glorification, with the tacit support of the West, of Nazism and Nazi accomplices during the Second World War, recognized as criminals by the decision of the Nuremberg Tribunal. Thus, the Nazi criminals S. Bandera and R. Shukhevych emerged as contemporary «heroes» of Ukraine. Monuments are erected to them; streets and other facilities are named after them.

The Kiev authorities are conducting a large-scale falsification policy in matters of history, whitewashing collaborators, including those who served in the SS troops convicted by the Nuremberg Tribunal. So, in December 2017, in the Ukrainian city of Lutsk, on the initiative of the State Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, collaborators who served in the German Auxiliary Police (Hilfspolizei) and took part in mass shootings of Jews were posthumously awarded the «Battle Crosses of the Knights of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists — the Ukrainian Insurgent Army» (OUN-UPA).

The Ukrainian authorities also continue to erect monuments and memorials in honor of OUN-UPA guerillas and regularly pay homage to former Nazi collaborators who have survived to this day.

Instead of fighting manifestations of various forms of intolerance and xenophobia in the country, the Kiev authorities prefer to turn a

blind eye to the illegal actions of radicals and extremists. The most egregious is the crime committed by Ukrainian neo-Nazis and nationalist radicals from among the sympathizers of the new Ukrainian government on May 2, 2014 in Odessa in the House of Trade Unions — the murder and burning alive of about 50 unarmed civil activists.

International human rights organizations called on the Ukrainian government to conduct a thorough investigation and punish those responsible for this tragedy. In October 2021, E. Gilmore, the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, stated that progress should be made in these investigations, but so far, the Ukrainian authorities have not rushed to investigate this terrible crime.

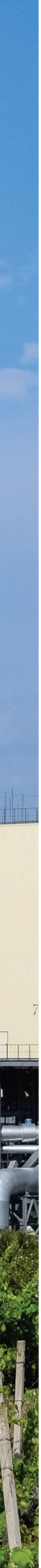
The statements of leading Ukrainian politicians testify to the commitment to the ideas of Nazism. Thus, in September 2018, A. Parubiy, the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine, in a live broadcast on the ICTV channel, called Hitler «the greatest person who practiced direct democracy».

In June 2020, the mayor of Kherson V. Mykolayenko congratulated the citizens on the anniversary of the adoption in 1941 in Lviv by collaborators from the Ukrainian Nationalists Organization of the «Act on Proclamation of the Ukrainian State», containing the obligation «to cooperate closely with National Socialist Great Germany, which under the leadership of Adolf Hitler creates a new order in Europe and the world and helps the Ukrainian people liberate from the occupation of Moscow». And in April 2021, another procession was held in Kiev in honor of the Galicia SS division. The followers of Nazism did not meet any resistance from the authorities and directly called themselves «the force that will rule the country».

On January 1, every year in Kiev and in other major cities of Ukraine, with the approval of the Kiev authorities, the key Nazi collaborator S. Bandera is commemorated on his birthday by aggressive mass marches replete with neo-Nazi and xenophobic slogans, mostly with Russophobic and anti-Semitic slogans. In July 2021, a draft resolution on celebrating the 80th anniversary of the UPA was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada. Among other things, it proposed to return the title of Hero of Ukraine to R. Shukhevich and S. Bandera.







11

WHY IS RUSSIA INVESTING SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMEA?

It should be noted that until 2014, Ukraine did not actually invest in the development of Crimea. Many sectors of the peninsula's economy have fallen into decline. Since 2014, Russia has allocated more than 1.3 trillion rubles (about 18.5 billion US dollars) for the development of Crimea. The main purpose of financial investments is to improve the quality and standard of living of Crimeans, to allow the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol to successfully integrate into the Russian economic space.

First of all, funds were invested in the modernization of infrastructure. The most extensive works are connected with the construction of a bridge across the Kerch Strait with a length of 19 km, the trans-Crimean highway Tavrida from Kerch to Sevastopol and the international airport in Simferopol with annual capacity of over 8 million passengers. In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to the peninsula and ensure energy independence, two power plants with a total capacity of 940 MW were built. Thus, the power industry's own capacity has grown 2.9 times. Moreover, the modernization of housing and communal services continues, new kindergartens, schools and hospitals equipped with modern medical equipment are being built. The scale of the transformation can be seen at least by this indicator: the financing of the road construction industry has increased 27 (!) times.





12 WHY IS A FREE ECONOMIC ZONE ESTABLISHED IN CRIMEA? WHAT IS IT LIKE?

A Free Economic Zone (FEZ) has been created throughout the territory of Crimea (the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol) to attract investments to the region and develop the Crimean economy in the face of Western sanctions. It is a business regime that provides special rules and benefits for doing business on the peninsula. In particular, FEZ participants in Crimea are exempt from property and profit taxes to the federal budget for 10 years, and from paying land tax for 3 years. At the same time, 2% of the profit is paid to the regional budget for the first 3 years, 6% — from the 4th to the 8th years, and 13.5% — from the 9th year.

Moreover, accelerated depreciation of their own fixed assets is provided for FEZ resident companies, they are exempt from customs duties and taxes. It is also important that investors are granted the right to design a land plot that is in regional (municipal) ownership for the implementation of an investment project without holding a mandatory tender in such cases.





13 IS IT POSSIBLE TO INVEST IN CRIMEA UNDER SANCTIONS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES?

Under the conditions of sanctions, investments in Crimea by foreign companies and entrepreneurs are not only possible, but are already being made. As a rule, investors wishing to develop business in the Crimea register a new enterprise outside the peninsula, in one of the Russian regions, which later operates on the Crimean territory. This makes it possible not only to neutralize the effect of sanctions, but also to take advantage of working as a participant in a Free Economic Zone. Moreover, in 2021, a special legal regime was introduced on the territory of Crimea, the main advantage of which is the confidentiality of investors from other regions of Russia as a way to protect against sanctions pressure.


HOOKAH
SHOP
SU
ОХЛАДИСЬ
В ТЕНЬКЕ!



14

DO MANY FOREIGN TOURISTS VISIT CRIMEA? IS IT DANGEROUS TO COME TO CRIMEA?

Crimea is open to foreign tourists. Everyone can freely visit this wonderful historical peninsula. Every year hundreds of thousands of foreign guests, primarily from Ukraine, Belarus, China and other countries, come to Crimea to get unforgettable impressions, enjoy beautiful landscapes and get acquainted with historical and cultural monuments. Since no stamps are made in the foreigners' passports when visiting Crimea, statistical data on the number of guests from other countries are rather of an estimated nature. In general, in 2021, the absolute record for the number of vacationers was broken: 8.3 million tourists visited Crimea in 9 months. This is 25% more than in the same period before the pandemic in 2019.

Vacation in Crimea is not only comfortable, but also absolutely safe. The situation on the peninsula is stable and calm. Residents of the Crimea are very friendly to vacationers. The hospitable atmosphere and nature of the Crimea will not leave anyone indifferent.


PASSPORT

15

DO THEY STAMP THE FOREIGNERS' PASSPORTS WHEN VISITING CRIMEA?

There is no need for foreign tourists to worry: no stamps are made in the passport when visiting Crimea. Crimea is not a separate country, it is the territory of the Russian Federation. Therefore, entry to the Crimean Peninsula is made according to standard rules of movement via local air and railway lines, as well as by car. The relevant stamp is placed only at passport control when crossing the border of Russia. In this regard, it is quite difficult to find out whether a particular foreign citizen has visited Crimea or traveled to other Russian regions. The dissemination of information about visiting the peninsula depends only on whether the foreign citizen himself wants to reveal it.





16

IS THERE A NEED TO GET ANY PERMIT TO VISIT CRIMEA?

You do not need to get any separate permit to visit the Crimean Peninsula in Russia. If you plan to travel to Crimea from any Russian city, for example, from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sochi, Rostov-on-Don, Krasnodar or Novosibirsk, it is enough just to buy an air or train ticket. In order for a tourist trip or a working visit to the Crimean Peninsula to be as comfortable as possible, we recommend entering the territory of Crimea through any of Russian cities and regions, first of all, the nearest ones — the Krasnodar Territory and the Rostov Region.



17 HOW ARE THE FOREIGNERS TREATED IN CRIMEA?

As in any other region of Russia, the foreigners are treated with kindness and cordiality in Crimea. Crimeans are tolerant and do not evaluate people by their nationality or citizenship. Moreover, the authorities and residents of the peninsula like to invite foreign guests to Crimea. In addition to the openness of the Russian soul, there are special reasons for such invitations.

The Crimean authorities invite foreigners to visit the peninsula so that guests can see with their own eyes everything that is happening here. Western media still consider it necessary to distort information about Crimea and write about human rights violations and the military regime in the allegedly annexed Crimea. However, in fact, the situation is completely different: the peninsula lives a peaceful life and is actively developing. This is noted by all foreign citizens who visit Crimea for the first time.

Moreover, Crimeans are interested in attracting investments and in creating new jobs, in implementing projects in the field of recreation, agriculture, and restorative medicine.

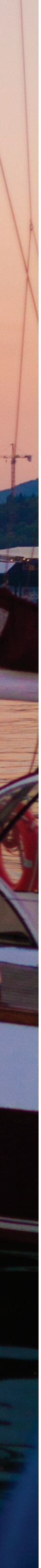


18 WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN IN CRIMEA? IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE ENGLISH?

In Crimea, you cannot be afraid to speak on the street, in cafes, shops and other public places in any foreign language, including English. After all, Crimea is one of the multinational regions of Russia. Since 2014, Russian, Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar have the status of state languages in the Republic of Crimea. Most of the locals speak at least two of them.

If you speak only English, then some inconvenience may occur when reading street names and signs above shops. However, as a rule, the staff of hotels and restaurants has a basic knowledge of English and will be able to help you navigate. In addition, the inscriptions on road signs on the main highways of the peninsula are also given in Russian and English.

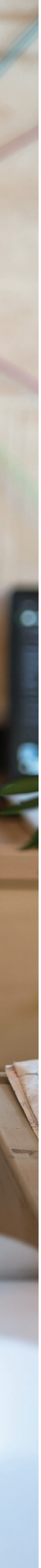




19 HOW OFTEN DO MILITARY OR POLICE OFFICERS CHECK CITIZENS' DOCUMENTS IN CRIMEA?

The procedure for ID check in the Republic of Crimea is completely identical to that in other regions of Russia. Request to show ID documents is vested in the Police or Rosgvardia, which, along with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, performs the functions of public order protection. However, it is unlikely that they will do so if you do not commit offenses. As for the military, they do not check any documents on the streets. The Border Guards check the documents of foreign nationals when crossing the border at the passport control only, for example, at the airport if you are flying in or out of the country.





20 CAN ONE USE BANK CARDS IN CRIMEA?

Currently, due to the sanctions imposed by Western countries, foreign guests cannot use bank cards issued by foreign banks. However, all Russian cards (including those working with Visa and MasterCard payment systems) are served in full.

Alternatively, you can purchase a SIM card from one of the Russian mobile operators and make non-cash purchases from your phone account through a contactless payment system (by simply bringing your mobile phone to the payment terminal). No commission is charged for non-cash payment of goods or services.

Crimea is the territory of Russia, so the purchase of goods is made in rubles.



21 CAN THE TOURISTS RENT CARS IN CRIMEA?

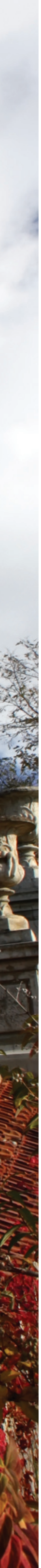
About 40% of tourists coming for vacations in Crimea arrive by plane or train. In order to move around the peninsula with comfort, everyone can rent a car.

International car rental companies do not work in Crimea, but there are many Crimean ones. To rent a car, you need to meet some requirements: be over 23 years old (although there are companies that will provide a car at the age of 19-21 years), have a driving experience of three years (you can find from 1 year). In fact, that's all.

For registration, you need to have a passport, a driver's license and a voucher with you if a person has booked a car in advance. Booking is an important stage of the rental process. This is due to the fact that a huge number of people go to Crimea in the summer and it is quite difficult to rent a car that has not been booked at least two weeks in advance.

The rent price depends on the car class, time of year and other factors. As a rule, the cost is from 2,000 rubles (from $30/€ 25) per day. Also, a deposit of 10 thousand rubles is left for the car. The main thing is that by renting a car, you can drive for free on new high-quality Crimean roads, visit numerous sights of the peninsula and fully enjoy your vacation in sunny Crimea.





22 WHAT ARE THE MOST FAMOUS SIGHTSEEING LANDMARKS IN CRIMEA?

Crimea is the center of the most picturesque nature landmarks and expressive architectural monuments. A whole month is not enough to get acquainted with all the iconic places of the peninsula in a calm mode. Bright and unforgettable impressions can be obtained by visiting ancient cave cities, ancient complexes, medieval fortresses, imperial palaces, the world-famous Nikitsky Botanical Garden, parks with exotic plants and, of course, modern museums.

You can start exploring the amazing Crimean Peninsula from the Southern coast — a strip of the Black Sea coast with a width of 2 to 12 km and a length of about 170 km (from Sevastopol to the Karadag mountain range). Here are such attractions as the Swallow's Nest (considered one of the main symbols of the Crimea), the Livadia Palace (the summer residence of the last Russian tsar Nicholas II, the meeting place of the leaders of the USSR, the USA and the UK in 1945), the Vorontsov Palace (the only structure in the world made of super-hard and super-strong mineral dolerite). And those who want to get to know the eastern traditions of the Crimea better should definitely visit the Khan's Palace in Bakhchisarai, which was the residence of the rulers of the Crimean Khanate in the XVI—XVIII centuries.

We recommend buying a travel guide upon arrival in Crimea, so as not to miss the most interesting.





23 WHAT IS THE CUISINE IN CRIMEA?

Crimean cuisine is very diverse. It combines more than 80 national cuisines of the world. On the peninsula, you can taste Russian, Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar, Armenian, Greek and other dishes of the peoples who live in the Crimea.

Crimean Tatar cuisine is very popular among guests and locals and consists mainly of meat dishes. It is recommended to start acquaintance with it with treats such as dolma, chebureks or yantyks, and for dessert you can enjoy Crimean baklava — sweet pies with honey and nuts. Hearty Ukrainian dishes, such as cherry dumplings and cheesecakes, are well suited for breakfast or lunch. Fragrant Armenian pork kebab (khorovats) with thin bread called lavash will give your dinner a Caucasian touch. And the unique Karaite meat pies have long become a real Crimean brand, you can hardly taste them anywhere else in Russia. And, of course, everyone's favorite Russian cuisine is represented in the Crimea by blinis, rastegayi, pelmeni and other dishes. Russian cuisine is a great variety of hot and cold first courses such as cabbage soup, borscht, okroshka, uha. The Crimean cuisine offers a variety of vegetables, fruits, seafood, fish and meat. No wonder Crimea is called a paradise for gourmets or lovers of fine wines.



24

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT HAPPENS TO YOU WHILE YOU ARE IN CRIMEA, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE EVENT OF A CAR ACCIDENT, DOMESTIC INJURY OR ILLNESS?

While traveling to other countries, no one is immune from possible illnesses or accidents. In order for the trip to the Crimea to be comfortable and safe, it is necessary to obtain a medical insurance policy before arriving in Russia. Otherwise, treatment of foreign citizens without insurance is possible only on a paid basis. If there is a policy, the costs associated with treatment are covered by the insurance company. Medical insurance does not cover injuries sustained under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If a foreign citizen gets sick or injured during his stay in Crimea, he needs to call the insurance company whose number is indicated on the medical policy and find out where the nearest polyclinic is located. If you need emergency medical care, you need to call an ambulance by phone number 112 (as in many countries of the world) or 103.


Симферополь



25 WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO GET TO CRIMEA?

The easiest and fastest way to get to Crimea is to fly to the international airport located in its capital — Simferopol. Aivazovsky Airport was opened in April 2018, it is located 14 km from the capital. In 2018, in terms of passenger traffic, which amounted to more than 5 million people, the airport is among the ten largest air harbors in Russia. The flight from Moscow or Saint Petersburg will take 2-2.5 hours. You can fly by plane from other cities of the country as well, for example, from Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, Perm and others. And it will take you just 1 hour to get to Crimea from the southern cities of Russia — Rostov-on-Don, Sochi, and Krasnodar.

At the airport, tourists can rent a car and go on an independent trip around the peninsula or take a taxi and public transport. Another way is to come to Crimea by car. You can rent a car in one of the cities of Russia or come on your own. After the opening of the Crimean Bridge across the Kerch Strait, such a trip became much more comfortable and faster. The length of the bridge is 19 km, travel on it is free. You can also get from Moscow and St. Petersburg by the Tavria double-decker train, which will bring tourists to Simferopol or the hero city of Sevastopol. Trains regularly run from the resort city of Anapa (Krasnodar Krai) to the hero city of Kerch.





SECTION II

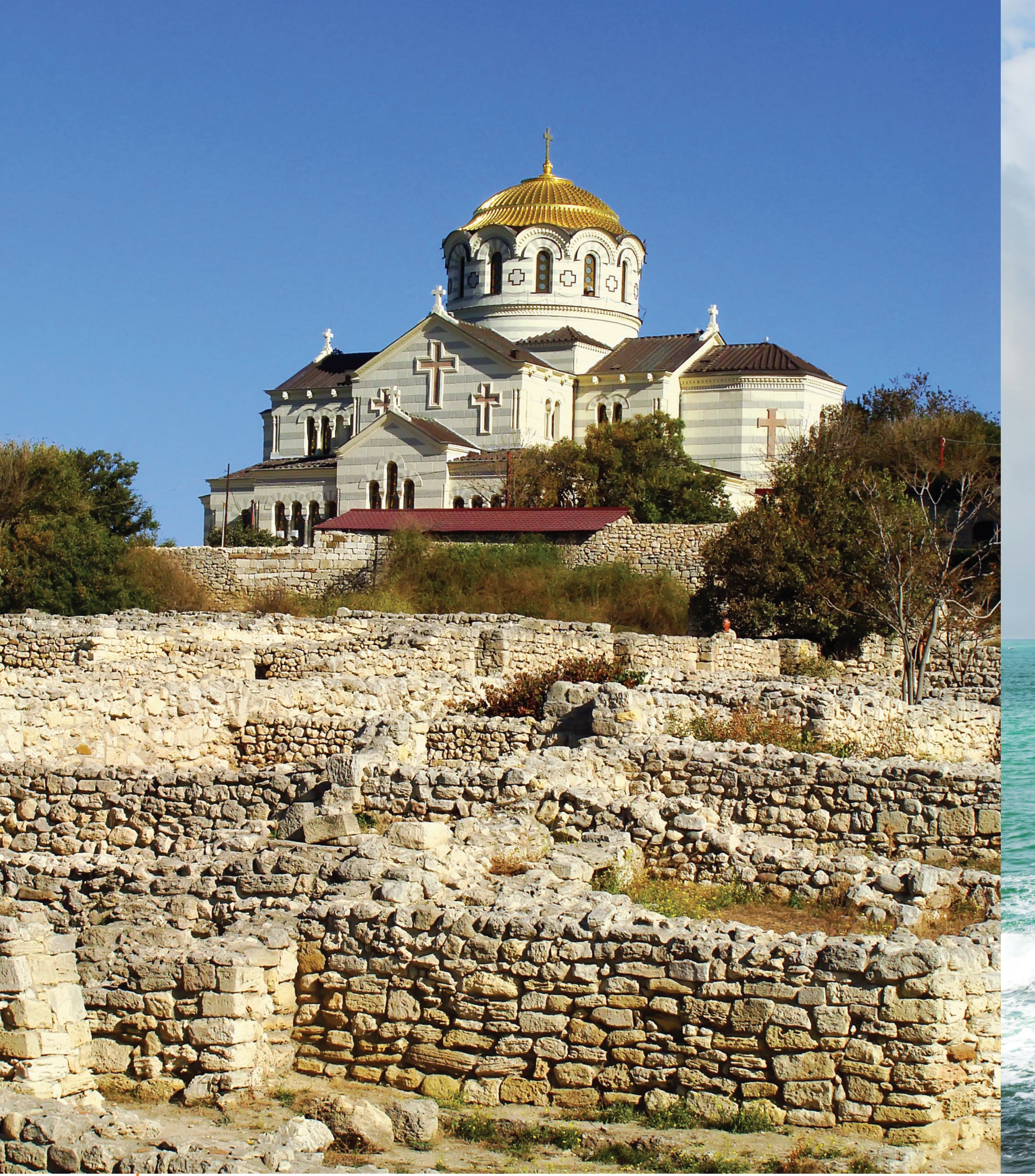
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CRIMEA



Crimean coastline is over 2,500 kilometers.



In Crimea, there are three adjacent climatic zones: steppes, mountains and subtropics.



In Chersonesus (on the territory of Sevastopol), the Russian Saint Prince Equal-to-the-Apostles Vladimir, was baptized.



During the Crimean War (1853—1856) Sevastopol held the defense for 349 days.



In 1945 Sevastopol, along with Leningrad, Stalingrad and Odessa, was named a hero-city (the cities of the USSR, famous for their heroic defense in 1941—1945).



The city of Panticapaeum (Kerch) was founded in the 7th century BC, just 150 years after the founding of Rome.



In February 1945, the Yalta Conference of the heads of the USSR, the USA and Great Britain was held in the Livadia Palace — the peace settlement issues after WWII were discussed.



The world's largest international political project, the United Nations (UN), originated in Yalta.



The Vorontsov Palace is the only structure in the world made of dolerite, the super hard mineral.



Crimean Bridge with a length of 19 km is the longest in Russia (11.5 km on land, 7.5 km above the sea).



There are over 200 endemic plants growing in the mountains of Crimea, which are not found anywhere else in the world.



There are about 50 salt lakes on the territory of Crimea.

25 QUESTIONS ABOUT CRIMEA

Information Publication

Editorial group: G.L. Muradov (Head),
S.V. Kalmykov (compiler and editor),
S.A. Matyukhin,
S.A. Pinchuk,
M.Yu. Solomentsev,
S.A. Khozinskaya

Editor: Business and Cultural Center of the Republic of Crimea State Autonomous Enterprise, info@bccrc.ru , +7 495 926 37 70

Informational publication for a foreign audience dedicated to the modern development of Crimea. It contains authentic information about what is happening on the peninsula, answers the most frequently asked questions.